

6/27/1988: News Article on Donald Trump, Ivana Trump, Trump Castle, the Mob, and Use of Debt to Influence a Police Representative (FBI Vault on Ivana Trump)

<https://vault.fbi.gov/ivana-trump>

Mob eyed Hartman woes

So what, says PBAer

By KEVIN MCCOY
Daily News Staff Writer

Reputed mobster Federico (Fritzil) Giovanelli was secretly taped discussing multi-million dollar gambling debts run up by Richard Hartman, top lawyer for the city's police union, the Daily News has learned.

FBI wiretap summaries show that on Jan. 13, 1986, Giovanelli and Harry Dickran, partner of former Brooklyn Democratic boss Mando Esposito, discussed how Hartman "got romanced by the casinos and was out \$3.5 million within six months."

The conversation raises the possibility that Hartman's huge Atlantic City losses made him a security risk for the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association and other police unions he represents.

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by Kevin McCoy

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The Trump Role

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"The only way they could take advantage of me was if I would be a partner to something (illegal), and I never would," said Hartman.

The wiretapped conversation comes to light amid new details about Hartman's casino compulsion and how he satisfied it, including the role of developer Donald Trump's Atlantic City casinos and Trump's wife, Ivana.

It also surfaces as Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau probes whether Hartman funded his gambling habit by dipping into law-office escrow funds entrusted to him by police officers and other legal clients.

The telephone conversation between Giovanelli and Dickran was overheard by FBI agents monitoring a wiretap on Giovanelli, a reputed Genovese crime family captain who is accused in the slaying of Detective Anthony Venditti.

Dickran is Esposito's partner in Beaumont Offset Printing Corp., in Farmingdale. Esposito and Dickran were charged this month with corporate tax fraud, bribery and conspiracy in a case involving Beaumont, which has held lucrative PBA printing contracts.

Law enforcement sources said there is no evidence that Giovanelli discussed approaching Hartman about the gambling losses. However, one law enforcement source likened the PBA lawyer's situation to that of American Marines who fraternized with Soviet women while guarding the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

"He may not be compromised, just like they may not have been compromised, but since he's got this big gambling problem and the mob

knows about it, there's an obvious security risk," the source said.

PBA spokesman Dennis Sheehan dismissed the concern, insisting: "There's not a scintilla of evidence that this was anything more than a conversation about what somebody heard in the rumor mill."

Owes casinos 2.5M

Hartman fed that mill with frequent casino gambling sprees in which he won and lost hundreds of thousands of dollars. He now owes a total of \$2.5 million to three Trump-controlled Atlantic City casinos — Trump's Castle, Trump Plaza and Resorts International.

According to complaints

filed by the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement, Hartman last September gambled at Trump Plaza and Trump's Castle using an \$817,000 certified check drawn from his "special account No. 1" at an Irving Trust branch in lower Manhattan.

Law enforcement sources acknowledged they are interested in Hartman's use of the check. But they refused to say whether it came from his escrow account, which contained money entrusted to him by law clients.

The gaming complaints charge that officials of Trump's Castle improperly accepted the check to reduce Hartman's outstanding debt of \$1 million before first veri-

fying its validity.

The complaints also charge that Trump's wife, Ivana, chief officer of Trump's Castle, improperly boosted Hartman's credit from \$500,000 to \$1 million without first checking his debts at other casinos.

Trump spokesman Gary Seisenger declined comment.

Morgenthau's office began investigating Hartman's gambling last October after the Division of Gaming Enforcement opened its own probe of the circumstances under which the casinos gave Hartman credit.

The News has learned that at approximately the same time, Hartman sought help from Arnold Weisler, director of the Council on Compulsive

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